

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 5 with the following corrected paragraph:

While the vinyl ester copolymer is typically the sole polymeric component and the primary ingredient of the composition, other polymeric materials may be blended with the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer in amounts up to about 50% based on the weight of the blend. Such polymeric materials include ethylene-propylene-diene monomer (EPDM), styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR), ethylene-propylene rubber (EPR), ethylene-propylene-hexadiene terpolymer, butyl rubber, cis-polybutadiene, cis-polyisoprene, polyurethane, polyamide, and the like, and mixtures thereof. Furthermore, additional components in an amount to provide their desired effects may be employed in the composition. These additional components include, for example, process aids in an amount up to about 8% by weight; fillers in an amount of about 20 to 60% by weight; plasticizers in an amount up to about 15% by weight, preferably about 3 to 15% by weight; metal oxides or hydroxides in an amount up to about 8% by weight; peroxides in an amount of about 0.5 to 5% by weight; coagents in an amount up to about 5% by weight; and antioxidants in an amount up to about 5% by weight.

Please replace sub-section (a), lines 12-14 of the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9, with the following corrected section (a):

(a) about 0.8 to ~~2~~ 8 % by weight of one or more process aids selected from the group consisting of stearic acid, stearates, polyethylene, amines, oils, organic esters, organic phosphate esters and combinations thereof;